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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 003046

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/RA ADAM VACCARO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/30/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMFO](#) [EG](#) [IS](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: JAPANESE SUPPORT FOR MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND
OBSERVERS

REF: STATE 114327

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)
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¶1. (C) Japan will try to maintain its current USD 240,000 annual contribution to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), but it will be difficult to contribute more, according to MOFA First Middle East Division Principal Deputy Director Akihiro Tsuji. Embassy Tokyo spoke with Tsuji October 31, as per reftel, underlining our strong support for the MFO and the need for Japan to continue its support as well. Tsuji replied that the Japanese Embassies in Rome and Cairo have already received demarches on this subject and, in addition, Egyptian Ambassador to Japan Walid Mahmoud Abdelnasser had called on MOFA Director General for Middle Eastern and African Affairs Toshiro Suzuki to press for support for the MFO.

¶2. (C) Tsuji told us Japan will make every effort to continue to support the MFO at current levels, but said it would be extremely difficult to increase its contributions given the financial constraints faced by Japan and the number of competing priorities. In fact, said Tsuji, even maintaining support at current levels is difficult, as Japan's contributions to MFO are considered voluntary in nature, rather than required. As a result, every time Japan's budget for such things is reviewed, the voluntary programs face the most scrutiny and are likely to be reduced or eliminated.

¶3. (C) Tsuji said he heard that Director General Larocco might be considering a trip to Tokyo to press for Japanese support in person, and said that he doubted a personal visit would change the outcome.

SCHIEFFER